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STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

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# FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

I MUST BE...  
DREAMING THIS!  
RESCUED FROM  
A SHOT-DOWN  
PLANE...BY  
THE GODDESS  
DIANA!

IT WAS THE MOST  
FANTASTIC OCCURRENCE  
IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD  
WAR II! FOR A STRANGE,  
THRILLING STORY, READ  
"IMMORTAL DIANA!"







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# Immortal DIANA!

BRRR...  
I'M FREEZING!  
LET'S GO  
BACK!

I TOLD YOU THE  
MOON WAS AN AWFUL  
PLACE! DO YOU BLAME  
ME FOR LEAVING?

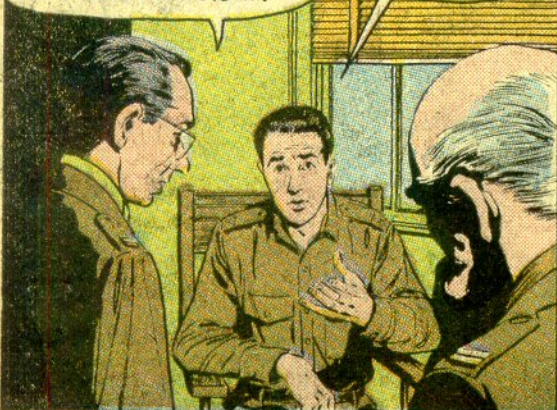
TO THE AIRBASE MEDICAL MEN,  
NICK DIMETRIOS WAS CLEARLY  
SUFFERING FROM A MENTAL BREAK-  
DOWN! YET, BUT FOR THE FANTASTIC  
STORY HE TOLD, HIS MIND SEEMED  
PERFECTLY SOUND! WAS IT SIMPLY  
"COMBAT JITTERS"... OR FACT TO  
STAGGER THE IMAGINATION?



IN AN AIR CORPS HOSPITAL ON OKINAWA, AT THE HEIGHT  
OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR...

ALL RIGHT, LT. DIMETRIOS. WE'VE  
GOT SOME EXPERTS PRESENT!  
LET'S HAVE YOUR STORY!

AGAIN? I'VE  
TOLD IT AT LEAST  
TEN TIMES!



WE WANT TO  
HEAR IT FROM  
YOUR OWN  
LIPS!

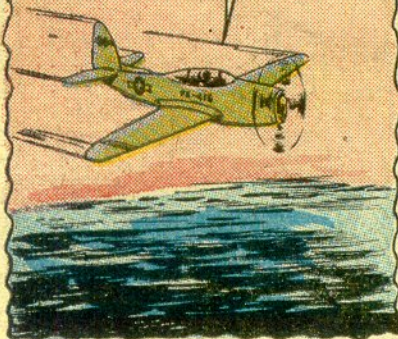
YOU'LL ONLY THINK I'M  
NUTS TOO! BUT OKAY, HERE  
GOES... I WAS RETURNING  
FROM A RECONNAISSANCE  
MISSION...





ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE BASE AN HOUR BEFORE! IT WAS THEN I REALIZED THAT MY COMPASS WAS HAYWIRE...

GREAT GUNS, I THOUGHT I WAS FLYING NORTHWEST... BUT JUDGING FROM THE SUN, I MUST HAVE BEEN HEADING EAST FOR HOURS!



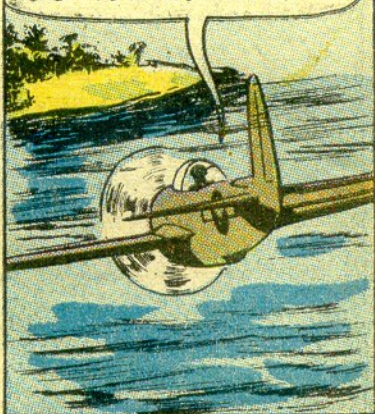
I HAD NO IDEA WHERE I WAS! THERE WAS NOTHING BUT WATER ON ALL HORIZONS...

RADIO'S DEAD, TOO! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE WHOLE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM!

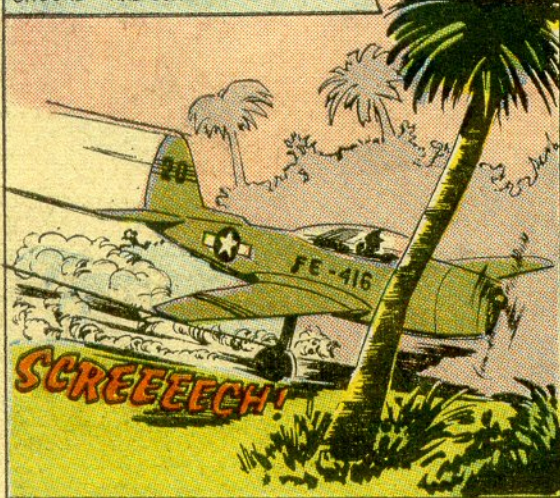


AS TIME PASSED, I FIGURED I WAS A GONER FOR SURE! THEN, TO MY AMAZEMENT...

AN ISLAND! DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS ONE ANYPLACE AROUND HERE! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO DITCH!



LUCK STAYED WITH ME! I CRASH-LANDED ON BUMPY GROUND...AND STAYED IN ONE PIECE...



I FIGURED IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO FIX THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM! MEANWHILE, I WASN'T IN SUCH BAD SHAPE...

AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE! 1000 TO 1 IT'S DESERTED! BUT THERE'S SURE TO BE BANANAS AND COCONUTS AROUND!



I STARTED EXPLORING FOR FOOD! IT WAS A LOVELY ISLE...A SORT OF TROPICAL PARADISE! I HADN'T NOTICED ANY WILD LIFE, TILL SUDDENLY...

WHAT THE...! THEY DON'T HAVE DEER HERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC!



NEXT MOMENT, AN ARROW WENT WHIZZING OVER MY HEAD! AT THE SAME INSTANT, I HEARD THE SHOUT OF A GIRL CLOSE BY...

PERFECT SHOT!



THEN I SAW HER...THE LOVELIEST CREATURE I'D EVER BEHELD...

HAVE I GONE MAD? WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE...HUNTING DEER WITH A BOW AND ARROW?





NOT REALLY BELIEVING MY EYES, I WALKED UP TO HER! SHE WAS EQUALLY AMAZED AT THE SIGHT OF ME...

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU! MY NAME'S NICK DIMETRIOS! I'M AN AMERICAN FIGHTER PILOT---JUST CRASH LANDED HERE!



FROM UP CLOSE, SHE WAS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL---

NICK---DIMETRIOS! THAT'S A GREEK NAME---HOW WONDERFUL! MY NAME IS---**DIANA!**



WHY SHE WAS SO PLEASED WITH MY NAME, I HAD NO IDEA! GETTING ANY INFORMATION FROM HER WAS IMPOSSIBLE---

NO---I SHALL ANSWER NO QUESTIONS! YOU MUST TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF---I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE IN---AGES!

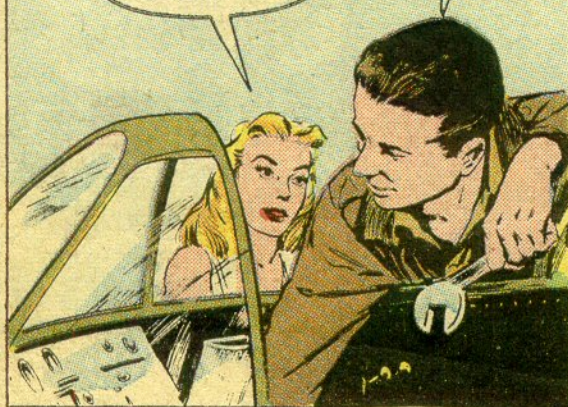
YOU MEAN YOU'RE ALL ALONE ON THIS ISLAND?



I WAS DYING WITH CURIOSITY, BUT SHE TOLD ME NOTHING! NEXT DAY---

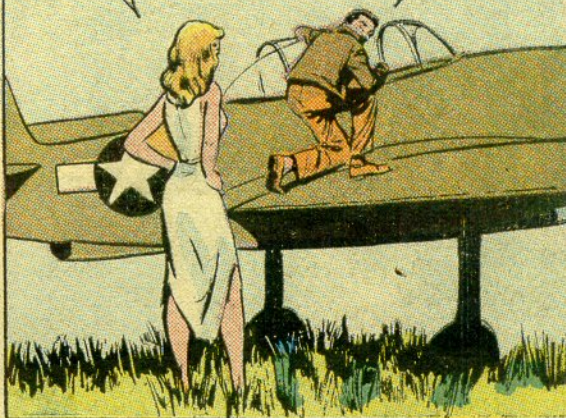
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME IN SOME HUNTING? HOW ABOUT A SWIM?

SORRY, I'VE GOT TO FIX THIS PLANE!



YOU'RE A STRANGE MAN---YOU SEEM ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY! DON'T YOU FIND ME---ATTRACTIVE?

I'LL SAY! BUT THERE'S A WAR GOING ON---AND I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY UNIT!



IT WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MUCH TO FALL FOR SUCH A BEAUTY, BUT I WAS TOO PREOCCUPIED! MY ALOOFNESS GOT UNDER HER SKIN---

I DON'T THINK YOU LIKE ME! YOU'D RATHER TINKER WITH THAT MACHINE THAN TALK TO ME!

BUT I DO LIKE YOU, DIANA! WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MY FIRST DUTY IS TO GET BACK TO MY OUTFIT?



FOR DAYS SHE BROODED---AS IF TORN BY SOME INNER STRUGGLE! AT LAST---

WELL, I'LL SOON BE READY TO GO! JUST A FEW MORE WIRE SPLICINGS AND---

CAN'T I PERSUADE YOU TO STAY? I---I'M NOT USED TO BEING TREATED LIKE THIS! YOU SEE, IT'S I WHO USUALLY REJECT MEN!





BUT I---I THINK I'M FALLING IN **LOVE** WITH YOU---AND THE LOVE OF A **GODDESS** IS NOT TO BE SPURNED!

A---A **WHAT?**

A **GODDESS!** HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF **DIANA**---GREEK GODDESS OF THE MOON? THERE'S NO PLACE IN THE MODERN WORLD FOR THE GODS OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY--NOBODY **BELIEVES** IN US ANY MORE! SO WE EXIST QUIETLY IN VARIOUS PLACES---AND **THIS** IS WHERE I HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE!

**NATURALLY, I THOUGHT SHE WAS STARK, RAVING MAD---THAT THE ONLY THING TO DO WAS HUMOR HER---**

I---I **BEG** YOUR PARDON, ON **GODDESS** OF THE MOON! I DIDN'T **EXPECT** TO SEE YOU HERE ON EARTH!

YOU'RE MAKING **FUN** OF ME! ALL RIGHT--**YOU ASKED FOR IT!**

SHE SEIZED MY HAND---I FELT A SUDDEN, RUSHING SENSATION---

**NO! NO!**

**JUST HOLD TIGHT!** I'M GOING TO PUT YOUR DOUBTS AT REST!

THE MOON LOOMED HUGE BEFORE US! IT WAS ALL SOME TERRIBLE HALLUCINATION, I THOUGHT---BUT NEXT MOMENT, WE'D LANDED ON A FRIGID SURFACE THAT SEEMED ALL TOO REAL!

I---I'M GETTING **COLD!**

YES, IT'S FREEZING UP HERE! DO YOU **BLAME** ME FOR LEAVING THIS AWFUL PLACE? IT'S SO LONELY AND GLOOMY---I COULDN'T **BEAR** IT!

AFTER AN EQUALLY QUICK TRIP BACK TO EARTH---

THE ISLAND IS **SO** MUCH MORE PLEASANT---BUT I'VE GROWN RATHER BORED OVER THE CENTURIES! WHY WON'T YOU STAY?

IT'D BE A GREAT HONOR---BUT IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!

SEEING ME CONTINUE TO WORK ON MY PLANE ONLY ENRAGED HER FURTHER---

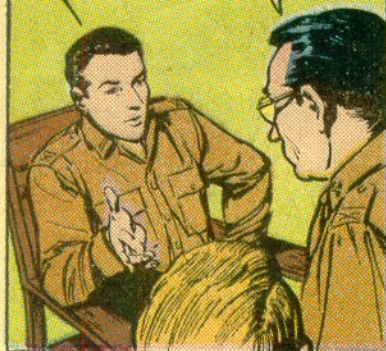
DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE OFFENDING A **GODDESS**?

THERE'S A WAR TO FIGHT, HONEY! AND THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT!



THAT'S THE STORY, GENTLEMEN...AS SOON AS MY INSTRUMENTS WERE FIXED, I FLEW BACK HERE! NOW I'D LIKE TO RETURN TO DUTY!

MY DEAR BOY, IN YOUR MENTAL STATE THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE!



THE QUESTION REMAINS, IF HE DIDN'T LAND ON AN ISLAND, WHERE WAS HE ALL THE TIME WE THOUGHT HIM MISSING?

QUITE BAFFLING! BUT THE MAIN THING IS THAT HE'S OBVIOUSLY MAD... EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO ORGANIC EVIDENCE!



AS NICK'S TALE BECAME KNOWN, CURIOUS PILOTS SCoured THE SOUTH PACIFIC IN SEARCH OF THE ISLAND, WITHOUT SUCCESS! MEANWHILE, HIS HOSPITALIZATION CONTINUED FOR WEEKS...

THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO GET BACK INTO COMBAT IS TO REPUDIATE MY WHOLE STORY! I'LL CLAIM MY BRAIN IS SUDDENLY CLEAR...



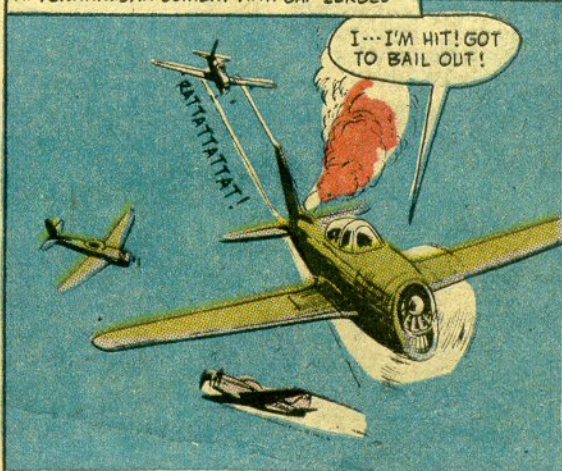
THE DOCTORS WERE OVERJOYED AT THE PATIENT'S SUDDEN RETURN TO SANITY! BEFORE LONG, HE REJOINED HIS UNIT...

GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, NICK! THE OLD NOODLE FOURSQUARE AGAIN?

BOY, WHEN THIS GUY DREAMS UP A GIRLFRIEND, SHE'S NOTHING LESS THAN A GODDESS! NA-HA!

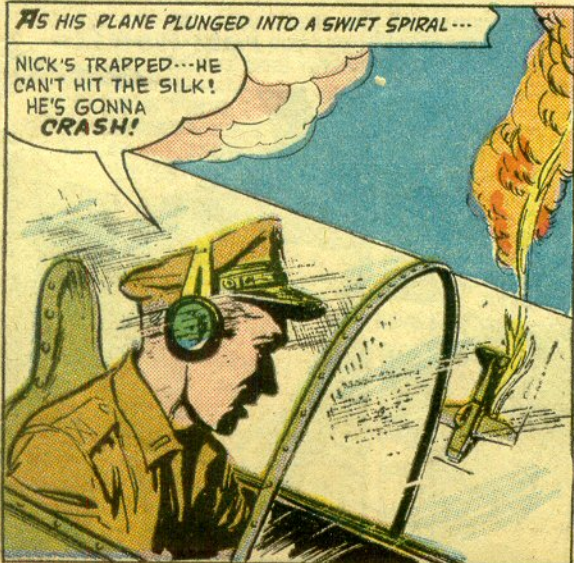


THE BUTT OF ENDLESS JOKES FROM HIS SQUADRON BUDDIES, NICK COULD ONLY KEEP HIS LIPS TIGHTLY SEALED! SOON AFTERWARDS, IN COMBAT WITH JAP ZEROES...



AS HIS PLANE PLUNGED INTO A SWIFT SPIRAL...

NICK'S TRAPPED...HE CAN'T HIT THE SILK! HE'S GONNA CRASH!



LOOK! AM I DREAMING, OR...?

I'M COMING, DARLING!







DIANA!

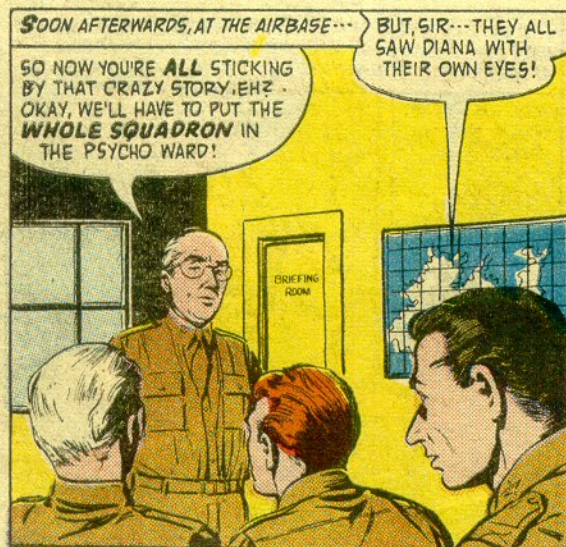
DON'T BE ALARMED, DEAREST!  
I'LL HAVE YOU SAFELY DOWN ON  
THE GROUND IN A MOMENT!

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
HOW DEAR YOU ARE TO ME? I'VE  
BEEN WATCHING OVER YOU... TO  
SEE THAT NO HARM COMES!  
BUT YOU'D BE SO MUCH SAFER  
BACK ON THE ISLAND!

YOU'RE FORGETTING  
AGAIN...THERE'S  
**STILL** THE WAR!  
BETTER PUT ME  
ABOARD ONE OF  
OUR PLANES,  
DIANA!



CRASH!



SOON AFTERWARDS, AT THE AIRBASE...

SO NOW YOU'RE **ALL** STICKING  
BY THAT CRAZY STORY, EH? -  
OKAY, WE'LL HAVE TO PUT THE  
**WHOLE SQUADRON** IN  
THE PSYCHO WARD!

BUT, SIR...THEY ALL  
SAW DIANA WITH  
THEIR OWN EYES!



**YOU'RE** THE SOURCE  
OF INFECTION, NICK! YOU'VE  
BEEN PUTTING WILD IDEAS  
IN THE MINDS OF THE  
OTHER PILOTS, SO NOW  
THEY'RE **ALL** SEEING  
THINGS!

BUT...  
BUT...



SO WE'VE DECIDED TO SEND YOU TO  
A BIG HOSPITAL BACK IN THE STATES  
WHERE YOU CAN GET INTENSIVE  
MENTAL TREATMENT! YOU'RE IN  
BAD SHAPE!

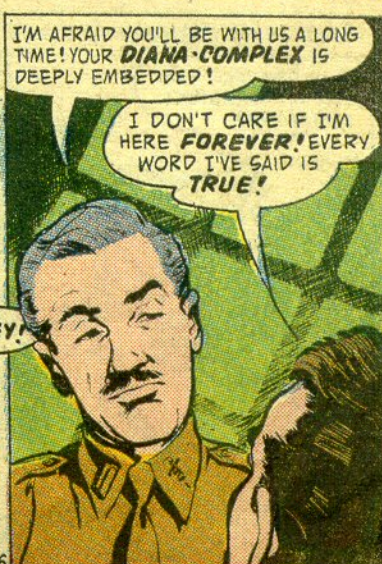
YOU MEAN I...  
I'M FINISHED WITH  
THE WAR?

IN A STATESIDE HOSPITAL, PSYCHOLOG-  
ISTS FOUND NICK'S A FASCINATING CASE!  
ANGERED, THE PATIENT WAS NOW DETER-  
MINED TO STICK BY HIS STORY...

SO YOU **STILL** BELIEVE YOU MET  
DIANA...THE GREEK GODDESS!  
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT BEING A  
GREEK YOURSELF, YOUR MIND  
WAS PROBABLY FILLED AS A  
CHILD WITH THAT NONSENSE...  
AND THAT IT CAME OUT UNDER  
THE STRESS OF  
COMBAT?



SALONEY!



I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE WITH US A LONG  
TIME! YOUR **DIANA-COMPLEX** IS  
DEEPLY EMBEDDED!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M  
HERE **FOREVER**! EVERY  
WORD I'VE SAID IS  
**TRUE**!



THE WEEKS DRAGGED SLOWLY BY...UNTIL ONE DAY,NICK HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...

YOU HAVE A **LT. NICK DIMETRIOS** AS A PATIENT HERE! MY FATHER AND I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT HIM!

BOY,SOME GUYS HAVE LUCK! WHAT A DISH!

SURGERY

SHE CAUSED QUITE A STIR IN THE HOSPITAL...THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL ANY OF THEM HAD EVER SEEN...

THE LIEUTENANT'S ROOM IS JUST DOWN THIS WAY!

WOW! WHO IS IT--  
**MARILYN MONROE?**

VISITORS FOR YOU, SIR!

**DIANA!** ER---DO YOU MIND LEAVING US ALONE, SARGE?

OH,DARLING,I'VE **MISSED** YOU SO! I'VE BROUGHT ALONG MY FATHER---

Y-YOUR... **FATHER?** YOU MEAN **J-JUPITER** ...**KING OF THE GODS?**

THAT'S RIGHT,YOUNG MAN! AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE TOWARD MY DAUGHTER! I DON'T LIKE **PHILANDERERS**, YOU KNOW!

YOU... YOU GOT ME WRONG! I--- I'M **CRAZY** ABOUT **DIANA!**

**FINE!** I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO **DISCIPLINE** YOU! I MAY BE RETIRED FROM MY PROFESSION---BUT I'M STILL IN GOOD SHAPE! WANT TO SEE ME HURL A THUNDER-BOLT? **WATCH!**

THAT WON'T BE---

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!

NO TROUBLE AT ALL, I ASSURE YOU!

CRACK!



I WANT TO **MARRY** DIANA---BUT HOW **CAN** I, BEING A MERE MORTAL? I'D GROW OLD WHILE SHE STAYED ETERNALLY YOUNG!

NO PROBLEM! I CAN MAKE YOU **IMMORTAL** IN A JIFFY!

NO, I WANT A NORMAL LIFE---AS A NORMAL AMERICAN WITH A NORMAL FAMILY!---**YOU'RE** GOING TO HAVE TO CHANGE, DARLING---ARE YOU WILLING TO BECOME A MERE HUMAN BEING?

HOW ABOUT IT, DIANA---WILL YOU GIVE UP **IMMORTALITY** TO BE HIS WIFE?

IT WAS THE BIGGEST SACRIFICE ANYONE HAS EVER ASKED TO MAKE FOR LOVE---

**YES!** I'D RATHER BE HAPPY FOR A LIFETIME THAN MISERABLE FOREVER!

**SO BE IT!** I SHALL NOW PERFORM THE MYSTIC RITE!

GETTING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AGAIN WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH---HE'D BEEN THROUGH IT BEFORE---

MY BRAIN IS SUDDENLY CLEAR, GIRL! I REALIZE THAT THE WHOLE BUSINESS ABOUT DIANA WAS MERELY A **DELUSION!**

GOOD! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY THIS MAKES ME!

SEVERAL YEARS LATER, IN THE DIMETRIOS BACKYARD---

GOOD GRIEF, DIANA---**MUST** YOU DO THAT FOR HOURS EVERY DAY?

JUST KEEPING MY HAND IN, DARLING!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU **DID** WIN THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP AT ARCHERY LAST YEAR! I WON'T HAVE YOU NEGLECTING THE CHILDREN!

HOW **DARE** YOU SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY! I SLAVE OVER A HOT STOVE---

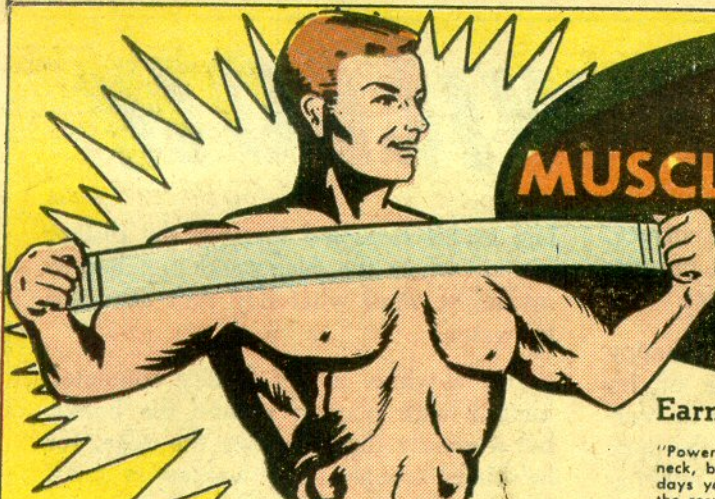
I'VE GIVEN YOU THE BEST YEARS OF MY--- OH-OH! **THUNDER-BOLTS!**

THERE GOES YOUR POP AGAIN! ALWAYS **TAKING YOUR SIDE!**

KER-BOOM!

THE END!





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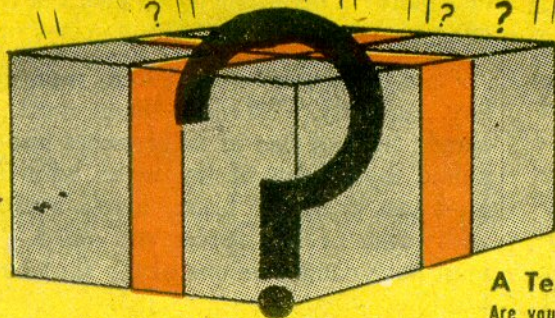
☐ I enclose \$1 plus 25c shipping charges

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10 DAY FREE TRIAL

We're so sure you'll be delighted with the wonderful surprises in store for you, that we offer it on 10 day free trial. If you are not 100% delighted, simply return the merchandise for prompt refund of the purchase price.



# The **OLD WILLOW**

Can a tree be a *friend*? On the surface, such a question sounds ridiculous, but you couldn't prove it by Emery Foster.

As a child, he had spent many happy summer vacations at the home of his grandfather—a rural farm deep in Vermont. And he had come to love the huge old willow tree whose boughs so invitingly overhung the deep pond in the pasture. He had reason to love it, too, for when he was but eight years old—before he had learned to swim—Emery had fallen into the pond. There was nobody around, and the boy would most certainly have drowned had he not, at the very last moment, caught one of the overhanging branches of the old willow. It was almost as if the friendly tree had *extended* its branch to the drowning lad. He had the willow to thank for saving his life, and he never forgot it. "My friend, the willow," he used to call it in secret.

The years passed, and Emery Foster grew up, married and had his own son, Emery Junior. He wanted the boy to have every advantage that he had had—including a stay at the farm, which was still in the family. The youngster was eight years old when they took him there for the first time, and he was enchanted with it. There was only one source of regret for his father, and that was that he couldn't show the boy the old willow tree. It had gone years ago, and the only trace of it was a moss-grown stump near the water's edge. But if the lad didn't have the opportunity to see the ancient tree, there were still countless other things around the farm that were a source of never-ending delight to him.

But finally there came a day when he was bored with the horses, cows and chickens and sought new worlds to conquer. There was nobody around to warn

him as his steps led towards the distant pasture where the deep pond stretched so invitingly. And what boy isn't attracted by water?

For a while, young Emery contented himself with playing around the banks, but a goodly distance from the edge, for he'd been brought up with safety in mind. Finally, the temptation of the water grew too great. Nearer and nearer towards the brink he came. And then, suddenly, the earth beneath his feet crumbled—and he was in the deep water with a resounding splash. Down he went, for he hadn't as yet learned to swim. Up he came, gasping—then down again. There were no people within earshot, none to hear his feeble, choked cries for help. He was coming up for the last time when something soft and leafy crept into his clutching hand.

Later, when he told the story of what had saved him, they didn't believe him. "You *couldn't* have caught onto a tree branch," said his exasperated father. "Why, there isn't a single tree around that pond! There *used* to be one, but it's gone years ago!"

"But daddy, there *was* a tree," said the boy earnestly. "*Honest* there was! I caught hold of one of its branches and I pulled myself out of the water with it! I—I can *prove* it! Look, here's a twig with some of the leaves still on it—it must have caught on one of my shirt buttons!"

Slowly his father accepted the beleafed twig that the youngster extended towards him. It was a fresh sprig of leaves—*willow* leaves. And it had come from a pond around which no tree grew—where the only thing left was an ancient, dead, moss-grown stump which marked the spot where once a friendly old willow tree had stood.



# U-BOAT 327!

ON FEB. 9, 1945, CAPTAIN HEINRICH KLAUS PREPARED TO TAKE OVER HIS NEW COMMAND...

IT IS ONE OF THE FINEST U-BOATS IN OUR FLEET...A MOST DISTINGUISHED RECORD UNDER ITS PREVIOUS COMMANDER!

UNDER MINE, IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER! FAREWELL AND... **HEIL HITLER!**



CAPTAIN KLAUS WAS A FIERCE DISCIPLINARIAN, WHO RULED WITH AN IRON HAND...

FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THERE IS BUT ONE WILL ABOARD THIS CRAFT...**MINE!** MY ORDERS ARE TO BE OBEYED WITHOUT QUESTION...WITHOUT THINKING! THE SLIGHTEST INFRINGEMENT OF MY RULES WILL BE MET WITH **PUNISHMENT!**



WITHIN A FEW DAYS AFTER THE VESSEL HAD PUT TO SEA, THE MORALE OF THE CREW BEGAN TO SINK UNDER THE NEW CAPTAIN'S TYRANNICAL RULE...

I CAN SEE YOU DID NOT **SHAVE** THIS MORNING! FOR THAT YOU WILL BE CONFINED TO SHIP WITHOUT LEAVE WHEN NEXT WE RETURN TO PORT!

**JAWOHL, HERR KAPITAIN!**



AS WEEKS PASSED WITHOUT SIGHTING ENEMY VESSELS, THE COMMANDER'S SAVAGE TEMPER GREW WORSE...

IS THIS A **PLEASURE CRUISE?** YOU'RE ALL INCOMPETENTS! THERE WILL BE NO RECREATION TILL AFTER WE'VE MADE OUR FIRST KILL!

HE ACTS AS IF WE'RE NOT **TRYING** TO FIND THE ENEMY!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

A **SHIP!**...WAIT...A RED CROSS IS PAINTED ON ITS HULL...IT IS A **HOSPITAL SHIP!**

**TO YOUR STATIONS! PREPARE THE TORPEDOES!**

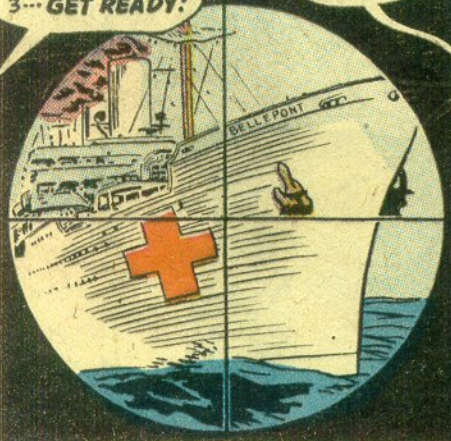




THE CAPTAIN HIMSELF SEIZED THE PERISCOPE,  
PREPARED TO ISSUE COMMANDS...

AN AMERICAN RED  
CROSS VESSEL---THE  
**BELLEPONT!**  
TORPEDOES 1 AND  
3---GET READY!

BUT CAPTAIN...  
WE CAN'T FIRE AT  
A HOSPITAL  
SHIP!



WHAT! YOU DARE QUESTION  
MY ORDERS? WHAT DO I CARE  
IF IT IS CARRYING WOUNDED  
SOLDIERS? THEY ARE OUR  
**ENEMIES**---ENEMIES  
OF HITLER!

IT...IT IS  
AGAINST  
THE RULES  
OF WAR!



RULES OF WAR  
---NA! WHAT  
COUNTS IS  
**VICTORY!**  
**FIRE!**



The mercy ship **BELLEPONT** SUFFERED A DIRECT HIT---



PERFECT! NOW  
WE MUST SEE TO IT  
THAT THERE ARE **NO**  
**SURVIVORS!**...  
PREPARE TO  
SURFACE!

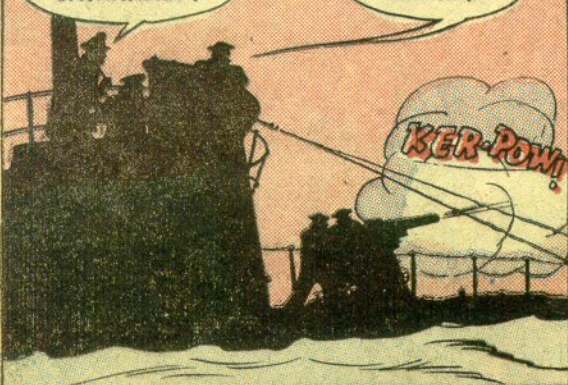
**NO SURVIVORS?**  
CAPTAIN, WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?



THE JUNIOR OFFICER FOUND OUT SOON ENOUGH WHAT WAS  
MEANT---

YOU---YOU CAN'T  
DO THIS, SIR! YOU'RE  
MAKING US ALL  
**CRIMINALS!**

I AM MASTER  
HERE...MY ORDERS  
ARE TO BE OBEYED!  
**COMMENCE  
FIRING!**



THE BUSINESS WAS SWIFT---

THERE ARE  
NONE LEFT,  
SIR!

**GOOD! WELL**  
---AT LAST WE'VE  
GOT OUR **FIRST  
KILL!**





**CAPTAIN KLAUS WAS WELL PLEASED WITH THE DAY'S WORK, BUT THE MEN WERE HORRIFIED...**



WHAT DOES HE CARE THAT WE HAVE DISGRACED OURSELVES? I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED!

HE'S NOT FIT TO COMMAND!

**THE GRUMBLING SPREAD LIKE WILD-FIRE! WITHIN A FEW HOURS...**



YES, I AGREE WITH YOU! PERHAPS IT IS MUTINY... BUT WE DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF HONOR!

LET'S TAKE OVER WITHOUT DELAY, LIEUTENANT!

**KLAUS WAS SURPRISED IN HIS CABIN AND DEALT WITH QUICKLY...**



TRAITORS! MUTINEERS! I'LL SEE YOU ALL HANGED FOR THIS!

IF YOU SURVIVE, CAPTAIN! YOU GAVE US NO CHOICE... WE PREFER TO FIGHT THE ENEMY HONORABLY!

**THE SUBMARINE SUBMERGED, AND KLAUS FOUND HIMSELF ALONE ON A WIDE, WIDE SEA! NIGHT FOLLOWED DAY IN A MEANINGLESS PATTERN... SOON HE LOST TRACK OF TIME... AS THE TWIN TORMENTS OF HUNGER AND COLD BROUGHT ON DELIRIUM...**



DONE... FOR! NOTHING... ON... HORIZON... HELPLESS...

**HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER A MOMENT, A DAY, OR A WEEK PASSED, WHEN FAR ON THE HORIZON...**



SMOKE! ...A SHIP... GOT TO... SEE ME... THEY MUST...

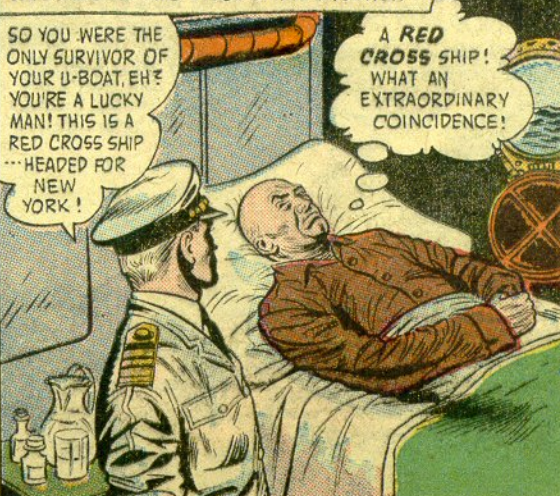
**IT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY PASSED BEFORE THE SHIP FINALLY CAME UP ALONGSIDE...**



SAVE... ME!

IT'S A U-BOAT CAPTAIN! PICK HIM UP!

**AFTER A NIGHT'S REST AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, KLAUS WAS ABLE TO TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION...**



SO YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF YOUR U-BOAT, EH? YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN! THIS IS A RED CROSS SHIP... HEADED FOR NEW YORK!

A RED CROSS SHIP! WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE!



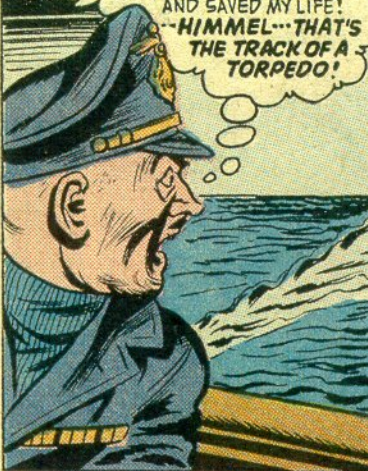
NEXT DAY HE WAS ABLE TO STROLL ABOUT THE DECK...

WHAT RARE GOOD FORTUNE! A RED CROSS SHIP IS **SAFE** ON THE HIGH SEAS! I'LL LINGER OUT THE WAR IN THE UNITED STATES...IN SAFETY! I ONLY HOPE THAT MUTINOUS CREW OF MINE MEETS DISASTER!



KLAUS SMILED AS HE BREATHED DEEPLY AT THE RAIL, LOOKING OVER THE CALM SEAS...

EXTRAORDINARY...A HOSPITAL SHIP CAUSED MY DOWNFALL AND SAVED MY LIFE! --HIMMEL...THAT'S THE TRACK OF A TORPEDO!



NEXT MOMENT...

DIRECT HIT!



WILD CONFUSION FOLLOWED! THE SHIP LISTED QUICKLY, AND KLAUS TRIED DESPERATELY TO SAVE HIMSELF...

PLEASE! LET ME IN THE LIFEBOAT!

TOO BAD, BUT THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR THE WOUNDED! YOU HAVE YOUR NAZI BUDDIES TO THANK FOR THIS...THERE'S NOTHING LOWER THAN FIRING AT A HOSPITAL SHIP!



FRANTIC WITH FEAR, KLAUS LEAPED FROM THE SINKING SHIP, STROVE DESPERATELY TO KEEP AFLOAT IN THE ICY WATER! SUDDENLY...

IT'S THE U-BOAT! IT'S SURFACED TO... NO! NO!

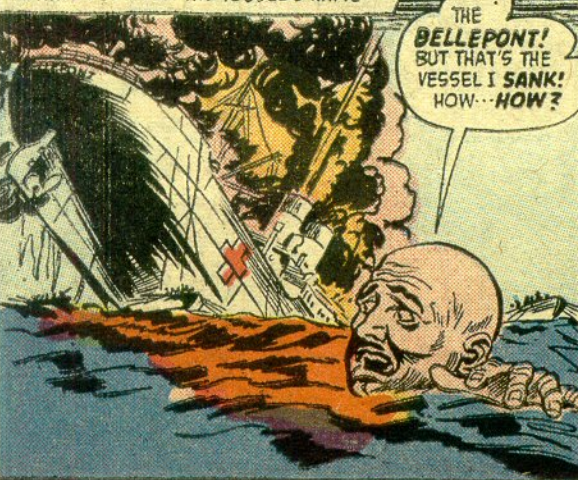
KER-POW!

IT...IT CAN'T BE! IT'S THE U-327...MY SHIP!



AS DEADLY GUN FIRE RAKED THE WAVES, KLAUS'S HEAD TURNED TOWARDS THE SINKING RED CROSS SHIP! HE HAD A SPILT SECOND IN WHICH TO READ THE VESSEL'S NAME...

THE BELLEFONT! BUT THAT'S THE VESSEL I SANK! HOW...HOW?



HAD FATE FLUNG HIM BACK IN TIME SO THAT HE COULD BE THE VICTIM OF HIS CRIME...AS WELL AS ITS PERPETRATOR? OR WAS THIS TO BE HIS FATE **ETERNALLY**...TO RELIVE THE SAME CATASTROPHE AGAIN AND AGAIN? SUCH WERE CAPTAIN HEINRICH KLAUS'S THOUGHTS, JUST BEFORE...





# "PAINTING by DEL GEORGIO!"

IN A GREAT NEW YORK BOOKSTORE, WHICH CATERED TO ART EXPERTS...

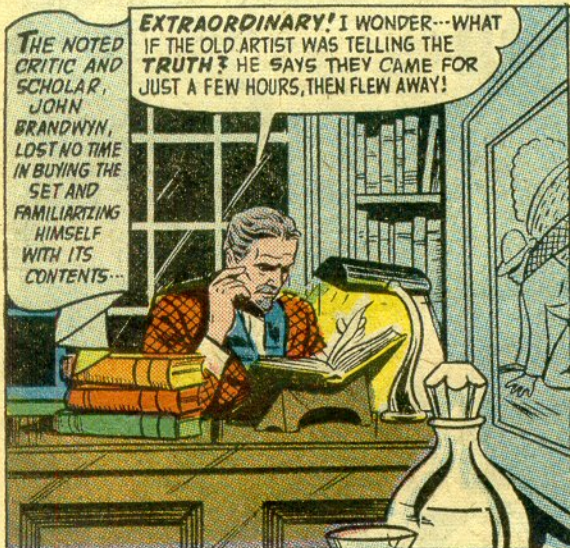
FASCINATING! A COLLECTION OF ART TREATISES WRITTEN IN LATIN IN THE 16TH CENTURY... NEVER HEARD OF IT!

JUST ARRIVED FROM OUR AGENT IN ITALY! THE SET IS A MERE \$400!



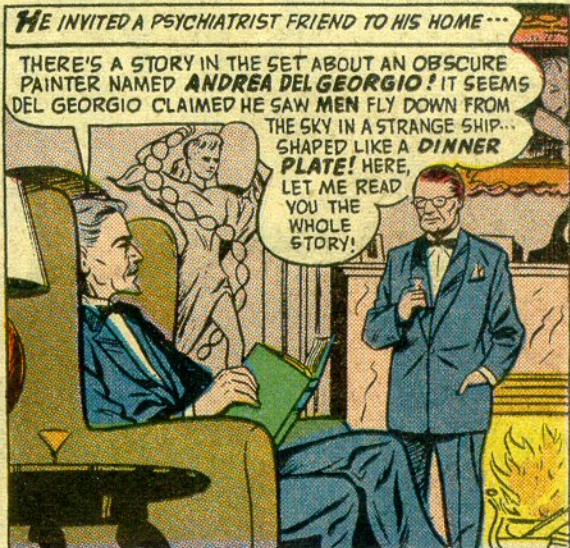
THE NOTED CRITIC AND SCHOLAR, JOHN BRANDWYN, LOST NO TIME IN BUYING THE SET AND FAMILIARIZING HIMSELF WITH ITS CONTENTS...

EXTRAORDINARY! I WONDER... WHAT IF THE OLD ARTIST WAS TELLING THE TRUTH? HE SAYS THEY CAME FOR JUST A FEW HOURS, THEN FLEW AWAY!



HE INVITED A PSYCHIATRIST FRIEND TO HIS HOME...

THERE'S A STORY IN THE SET ABOUT AN OBSCURE PAINTER NAMED **ANDREA DEL GEORGIO**! IT SEEMS DEL GEORGIO CLAIMED HE SAW MEN FLY DOWN FROM THE SKY IN A STRANGE SHIP... SHAPED LIKE A **DINNER PLATE**! HERE, LET ME READ YOU THE WHOLE STORY!



...AND THAT'S IT! HE EVEN PAINTED A **PICTURE** OF THOSE MEN AND THEIR SHIP... A PAINTING WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY IS **LOST**!

DEL GEORGIO DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A MADMAN TO ME! IT'S JUST POSSIBLE IT **WASN'T** A HALLUCINATION!

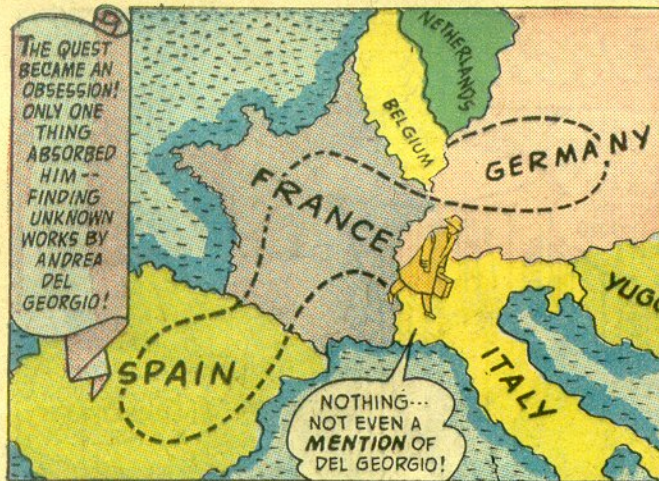


THAT SPRING, WHEN JOHN BRANDWYN TOOK HIS USUAL TRIP TO EUROPE...

DEL GEORGIO'S FRIENDS ALL SAID HE WAS **MAD**! BUT **WAS** HE? I WONDER WHAT HIS PAINTING OF THE VISITORS **LOOKED** LIKE? I WON'T LEAVE A STONE UNTURNED TRYING TO LOCATE THAT PAINTING!





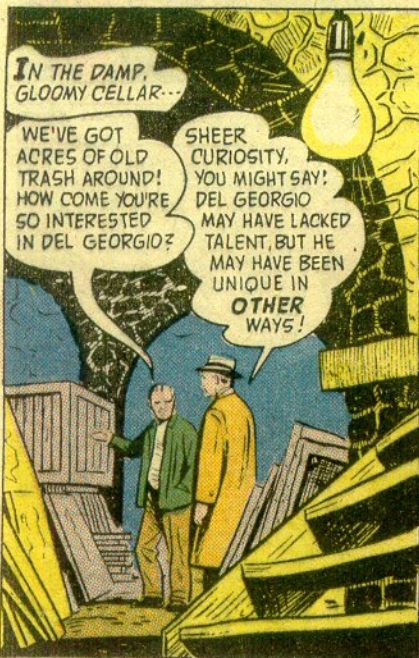


THE QUEST BECAME AN OBSESSION! ONLY ONE THING ABSORBED HIM -- FINDING UNKNOWN WORKS BY ANDREA DEL GEORGIO!

AFTER MONTHS OF FRUITLESS SEARCHING, IN A SMALL MUSEUM NEAR POSITANO, ITALY...

AH, YES, HERE WE ARE... **DEL GEORGIO!** WE'VE GOT LOADS OF HIS JUNK DOWN IN THE CELLAR! ISN'T WORTH HANGING, YOU KNOW!

PERHAPS NOT! BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE IT... ALL OF IT!



IN THE DAMP, GLOOMY CELLAR...

WE'VE GOT ACRES OF OLD TRASH AROUND! HOW COME YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN DEL GEORGIO?

SHEER CURIOSITY, YOU MIGHT SAY! DEL GEORGIO MAY HAVE LACKED TALENT, BUT HE MAY HAVE BEEN UNIQUE IN OTHER WAYS!



IT SHOULD BE IN THIS PILE! AH, HERE WE ARE... **DEL GEORGIO!** MUST BE A DOZEN OR 50 WORKS BY HIM HERE!

LET ME SEE THEM... PLEASE!

AS THEY SCRUTINIZED THE FIRST CANVAS...

**MAN ON HORSEBACK!** VERY POOR STUFF... COLOR AND COMPOSITION ARE DISTINCTLY INFERIOR!

YES, BUT THE MAN COULD **DRAW!** HIS EYE FOR DETAIL WAS AS PRECISE AS A CAMERA'S! LET'S LOOK FURTHER!

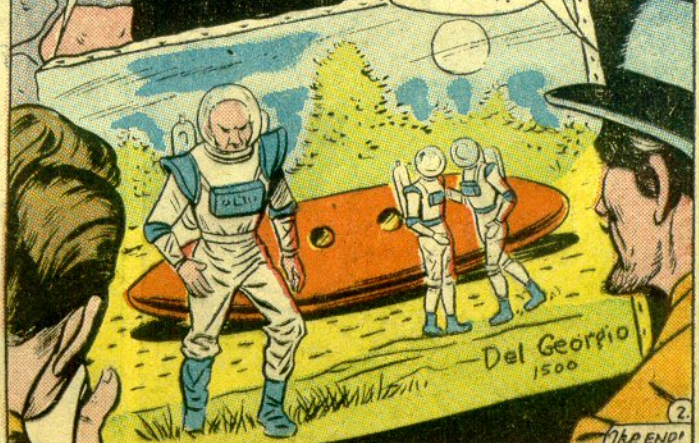


THEY LOOKED AT A SECOND PAINTING, A THIRD AND FOURTH... AND THEN...

FANTASTIC!

IT... IT'S A **SAUCER**... A **FLYING SAUCER!** WHERE DID DEL GEORGIO GET SUCH AN **IMAGINATION?**

IT'S **NOT** IMAGINATION! LOOK AT HOW **DETAILED** IT IS... WHAT COULD HE HAVE KNOWN OF MODERN ENGINEERING? THAT WAS PAINTED FROM **LIFE**... WHICH PROVES A SAUCER ACTUALLY **DID** LAND IN THE 16TH CENTURY!





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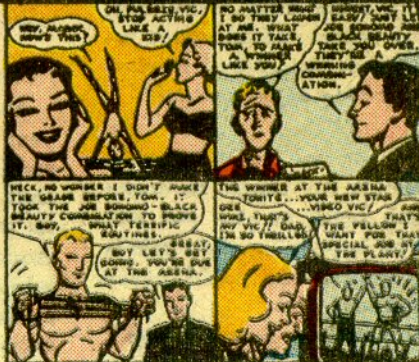
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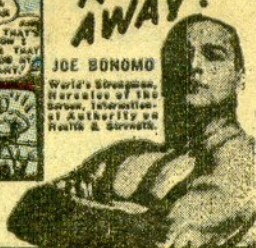
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# From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

This month, your Editor has a rather choice collection of bouquets and brickbats to pass along to all you fans of "Forbidden Worlds". Remember that this is an open forum, and we welcome your say, for you're the people who really run this magazine! Send your letters to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. And now—let's see what a few of our readers have to say!

"Dear Editor:—

I always did love exciting fiction, but 'Take It Easy!' in your No. 51 issue was the most! Not only was it amusing, but the best I ever read. How about a 'Forbidden Worlds' annual with all the best stories in it? Keep up the good work and I'll keep loving you!

—Starr Welby, Miami, Fla."

Thanks, Starr—we liked that story, too. What do you other readers think about injecting a bit of humor into thrill stories? And how about the idea of an annual?

"Dear Editor:—

I think it's terrible for people to waste their time on such trash as you put out when they could be improving their minds by reading the classics. But you'd never dare print my opinion!

—William Osmuth, Boston, Mass."

Why shouldn't we print your opinion? But aren't you being a stuffed shirt? The classics should be read and minds improved, but all of us can profit by the entertainment and good clean excitement which "Forbidden Worlds" provides!

"Dear Editor:—

I've just bought my first issue of 'Forbidden Worlds' and I think it's the best comic ever published. Now I know why I never see many of them on the stands—they sell out too fast! Your artists are

swell—congratulations to whoever drew 'The Land That Time Forgot!'

—Sherryl Howell, Webster, Fla."

We hope you'll continue to enjoy "Forbidden Worlds" for many years to come. We do try to employ the very best artists to illustrate our stories. The man you're talking about is Ogden Whitney.

"Dear Editor:—

I quote one of your readers: 'Stories like 'Underneath the Island' could never happen and I for one don't believe it.' This fellow can't have any imagination at all. If he did he would read and enjoy. Besides, you never claimed the story was true. Most true stories aren't interesting. But weird, unbelievable stories are fascinating—so keep up the good work!

—V. J. Chain, Magee, Miss."

That's the way we look at it, too. The old saw about truth being stranger than fiction is just that—an old saw. For our part, we'll take absorbing stories of the imagination any day—and that's what we'll continue to bring you!

"Dear Editor:—

I've read 'Forbidden Worlds' for over a year now. In my opinion, it's the only comics magazine published in America that uses real thought and imagination in its stories. For the most part, I find these stories swell and exciting—but once in a while, you run a yarn which falls flat on its face. Other readers must share my opinion—yet the letters I read on your editorial page always seem to praise your stuff. I wonder—would you print complaints, or do only compliments get published?

—Emery Fried, Los Angeles, Calif."

You haven't read this page steadily enough or you'd see that we print gripes, too, as long as they're sincere. You can't please everybody—but we do think we're on the right road, since the compliments outweigh the complaints by at least fifty to one! "Forbidden Worlds" welcomes legitimate brickbats—they help us improve our magazine!



# Someone <sup>is</sup> WATCHING!

I'M TELLING YOU,  
OFFICER, I'M **SANE!**  
IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S  
... **TWO** OF ME!



DID YOU EVER HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU WERE BEING FOLLOWED, THAT SOMEONE WAS WATCHING YOU, OBSERVING YOUR EVERY MOVE? SO IT WAS WITH **BILL WOODS**, A YOUNG ACCOUNTANT! AND IN CASE YOU THINK HE'S CRAZY, JUST **WATCH**... AS FANTASTIC EVENTS PROVED HOW TERRIBLY RIGHT HE WAS!

O'DEN  
WHITNEY

IT ALL BEGAN ONE MORNING  
WHILE HE WAS SHAVING---

FUNNY... I COULD ALMOST  
SWEAR THAT SOMEBODY'S  
IN THE ROOM WITH ME...  
**WATCHING**---



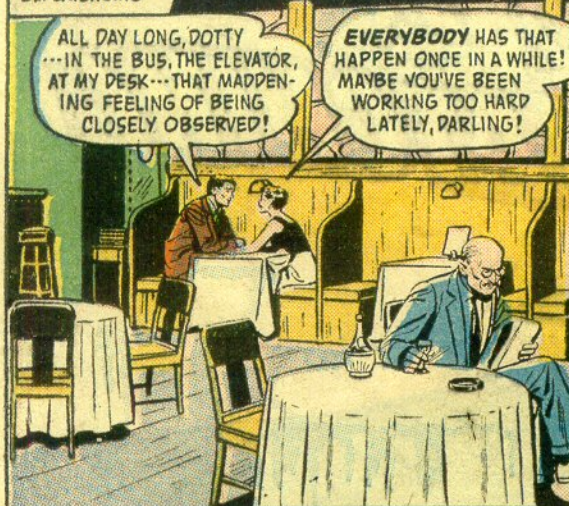
THE SENSATION DEEPENED AS HE STOPPED OFF AT A BANK  
ON THE WAY TO WORK---

GREAT SCOTT... I CAN  
ALMOST **FEEL** EYES ON  
ME... STUDYING MY EVERY  
MOVE! IF I DON'T STOP  
GLANCING OVER MY  
SHOULDER, PEOPLE  
WILL THINK I'M  
OFF MY  
ROCKER!





THAT NIGHT HE TOLD HIS FIANCEE WHAT HE'D BEEN EXPERIENCING...



ALL DAY LONG, DOTTY  
...IN THE BUS, THE ELEVATOR,  
AT MY DESK... THAT MADDEN-  
ING FEELING OF BEING  
CLOSELY OBSERVED!

EVERYBODY HAS THAT  
HAPPEN ONCE IN A WHILE!  
MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN  
WORKING TOO HARD  
LATELY, PARLING!

BY BEDTIME, HE HAD SHAKEN THE SENSATION... BUT HIS FIRST THOUGHT UPON AWAKENING IN THE MORNING...



GOOD GRIEF... IT'S START-  
ING AGAIN! MORE INTENSE  
THAN EVER!

LATER IN THE DAY...



WHAT'S THE MATTER  
WITH YOU, WOODS? WHY  
DO YOU KEEP STARING  
OVER YOUR SHOULDER  
EVERY FEW MINUTES?

ER...  
NOTHING,  
SIR!  
NOTHING  
AT ALL!

FOR DAYS THINGS WENT ON THAT WAY,  
GROWING INCREASINGLY WORSE! THEN  
ONE NIGHT, RETURNING HOME FROM THE  
OFFICE...



OH-OH! THERE'S A LIGHT  
ON IN MY APARTMENT! DID I  
FORGET TO SNAP OFF THE  
SWITCH THIS MORNING...  
OR COULD SOMEONE  
BE THERE?

HE TURNED THE KEY IN THE LOCK  
QUIETLY, HIS HEART POUNDING WITH  
A STRANGE FEAR...



WHAT THE...!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING IN MY  
APARTMENT,  
BUD?

I BEG YOUR PARDON!  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN  
MY APARTMENT?



OH, NO... NO!  
THIS CAN'T  
BE!

IT WAS LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR! THE STRANGER,  
BILL'S EXACT DUPLICATE, REGARDED HIM COOLLY...

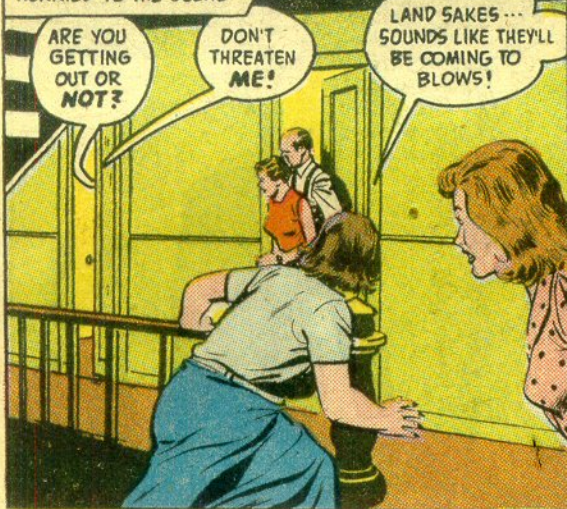


YOU'VE GOT YOUR NERVE,  
BARGING IN HERE! IF  
YOU DON'T BEAT IT  
FAST, I'LL CALL  
THE POLICE!

YOU'LL CALL  
THE...? LOOK, YOU,  
WHOEVER YOU ARE  
...IF YOU DON'T  
TELL ME WHAT  
YOUR GAME IS,  
I'LL...



THEIR ANGRY VOICES CARRIED DOWN THE HALL! THE LANDLADY HURRIED TO THE SCENE...



ARE YOU GETTING OUT OR NOT?

DON'T THREATEN ME!

LAND SAKES... SOUNDS LIKE THEY'LL BE COMING TO BLOWS!

AIEEE! I... I'M SEEING DOUBLE!

NO YOU'RE NOT, MRS. NORTHROP! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS GUY'S GAME IS, BUT...



MRS. NORTHROP FLED IN ALARM, AND THE NEXT INSTANT BILL FELT HIMSELF IN THE GRIP OF AN IRRESISTIBLE STRENGTH...



I'VE TAKEN JUST ABOUT ENOUGH FROM YOU! OUT! AND DON'T COME BACK!

HEY!

HE WAS FLUNG INTO THE HALLWAY, AND THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT BEHIND HIM! IN THE STREET HE WANDERED ABOUT, TRYING TO GET A GRIP ON HIMSELF...



WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW? COULD IT HAVE BEEN A HALLUCINATION? OF COURSE, WHAT ELSE? I IMAGINED IT ALL... THE DOUBLE, MRS. NORTHROP... THE WHOLE THING! NOW THAT I'M CALM, I'LL GO BACK TO THE APARTMENT AND MAKE SURE!

HE COULD SEE FROM THE STREET THAT HIS WINDOWS WERE DARK! HURRYING UPSTAIRS, HE OPENED THE DOOR, SNAPPED THE SWITCH...



EMPTY! NOW THERE'S NOBODY HERE!



BOY, THIS IS SURE A RELIEF... BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY NERVES? I BETTER NOT TELL DOTTY THAT... GREAT GUNS... DOTTY! WE HAD A DATE TONIGHT! I'M TWO HOURS LATE ALREADY!

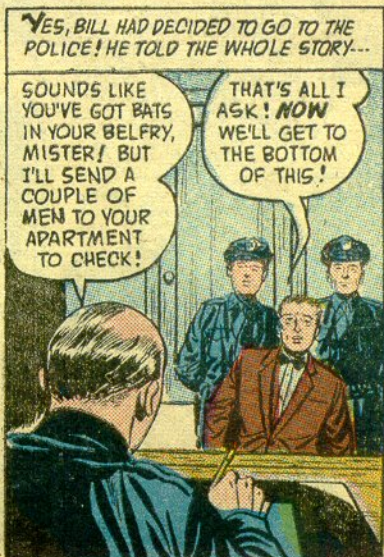
HE RUSHED TO THEIR MEETING PLACE, THEIR FAVORITE RESTAURANT...



IS MY FIANCÉE HERE, LUIGI? DID YOU SHOW HER TO OUR USUAL TABLE?

SIGNOR WOODS! I...NO... I'M GOING CRAZY!







THEY FOUND THE OCCUPANT OF BILL'S APARTMENT PREPARING FOR BED...



OFFICER, THIS MAN HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME ALL NIGHT! I SUGGEST SENDING HIM TO A PSYCHIATRIST!

LOOK, THERE'S NO WAY OF SETTLING THIS RIGHT NOW! IT'LL BE QUITE A JOB ESTABLISHING WHO'S WHO IS COURT... BUT MEANWHILE, POSSESSION IS 9/10TH'S OF THE LAW!



BESIDE HIMSELF, BILL CHECKED IN AT A NEARBY HOTEL...



NEXT MORNING BILL RUSHED TO HIS BANK TO MAKE A WITHDRAWAL! HE NEEDED MONEY FOR HIS SUDDENLY HEAVY EXPENSES, FOR NEW CLOTHES...

I BEG YOUR PARDON, MR. WOODS---BUT YOU JUST CLOSED OUT YOUR ACCOUNT, NOT MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES AGO! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?..

HUH?



REALIZING THAT THE DOUBLE HAD BEATEN HIM TO IT, BILL APPEALED TO THE MANAGER OF THE BANK...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOUBLE? HERE'S THE SIGNATURE ON THE WITHDRAWAL SLIP... YOUR LEGAL SIGNATURE! OBVIOUSLY, YOU CLOSED OUT THAT ACCOUNT YOURSELF! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?

I CAN SEE I'M WASTING MY TIME!



FRANTICALLY HE RUSHED OFF TO HIS JOB, AND HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY WHAT HE FOUND THERE...

WHAT THE...! WHICH OF YOU IS WHICH?

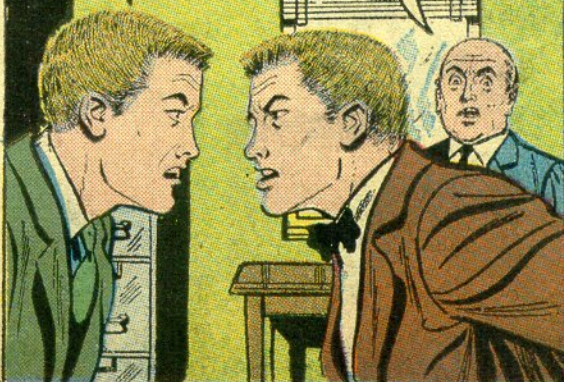
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE MY JOB TOO, EH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



A FIERCE ARGUMENT ENSUED...

DON'T CALL ME AN IMPOSTOR! I'VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO...

STOP IT! YOU'RE FIRED... BOTH OF YOU! I DON'T WANT ANY MONKEY BUSINESS IN THIS OFFICE!





HAVING LOST HIS FIANCEE, HIS SAVINGS AND HIS JOB, BILL FELT SUDDENLY WEARY AND DEFEATED! DOWNSTAIRS HE PLEADED WITH HIS TORMENTOR...

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU FOR AN EXPLANATION! WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

I CAN'T HELP IT, BILL... I'VE REALLY GOT NO CHOICE!



HE LISTENED IN AMAZEMENT TO THE DOUBLE'S SUDDENLY FRIENDLY VOICE...

IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU WENT TO ANOTHER CITY, STARTED A NEW LIFE! IT'LL BE EASY FOR YOU TO MAKE FRIENDS, MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME! WHY DON'T YOU BE A DECENT CHAP AND DO IT?

AND LEAVE YOU A CLEAR FIELD? BUT YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED...



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE DOUBLE WALKED AWAY...

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY! THIS IS WORSE THAN BEING AN EXILE--A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY! HOW CAN I FIGHT HIM?



AT LUNCH TIME, AS DOTTY LEFT HER OFFICE...

PLEASE, DARLING, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS AWFUL THING--YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! WILL YOU MARRY ME... NOW? WE CAN GO TO ANOTHER CITY, START A NEW LIFE...

OH, BILL... BILL! THE LAST 24 HOURS HAVE BEEN LIKE A NIGHTMARE!



HE HURRIED HER TOWARD HIS WAITING CAR, BEGAN DRIVING SWIFTLY FROM THE CITY...

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A RELIEF THIS IS--WE'LL PUT THE WHOLE GHASTLY EXPERIENCE BEHIND US! ...WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?

I---I DON'T KNOW, BILL... SOMEHOW YOU LOOK--DIFFERENT!



DIFFERENT? YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! DON'T LET WHAT'S HAPPENED RUIN OUR LIVES!

HE--HE DOES LOOK DIFFERENT! I CAN'T SAY WHY, BUT SOMEHOW...



DOTTY GREW MORE AND MORE DISTURBED AS THEY ENTERED THE HOME OF A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE! SHE HAD THE OVER-POWERING FEELING THAT SHE WAS NO LONGER IN LOVE WITH BILL...

IF YOU TWO ARE READY, WE'LL START THE SERVICE!

WAIT!... BILL, DEAREST, WILL YOU KISS ME? JUST ONCE--BEFORE WE BECOME MAN AND WIFE...

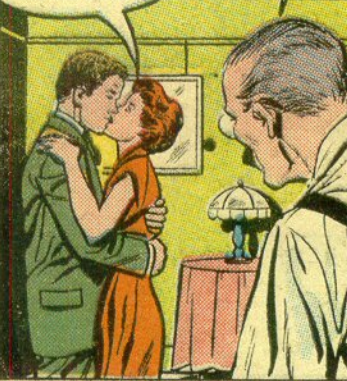




HE TOOK HER IN HIS ARMS, PRESSED HIS LIPS ON HERS, AND AT THAT MOMENT... SHE KNEW THE TRUTH...

YOU... YOU'RE NOT BILL... NOT MY BILL! YOU'RE THE IMPOSTOR!

SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



SHE SAW HIS FACE FALL, HIS SHOULDERS SAG! HE SEEMED CRUSHED AND DEFEATED...

ALL RIGHT... I SEE NOW THAT I CAN'T FOOL YOU... ANY OF YOU! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU BACK...

WH-WHO ARE YOU? PLEASE, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, WON'T YOU EXPLAIN?



WORDLESSLY THE DOUBLE OK'D HER BACK TO HER APARTMENT HOTEL, WHERE THE REAL BILL WAS WAITING, READY FOR A FIGHT...

ONE SIDE, DOTTY... I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS GUY APART! NO, THAT WOULD BE POINTLESS! LET'S GO SOMEWHERE AND TALK!



IN DOTTY'S APARTMENT...

OKAY, START EXPLAINING! FIRST, WHO ARE YOU?

I SUPPOSE I DO OWE YOU BOTH AN EXPLANATION! WELL... IN BRIEF... I AM A BEING FROM ANOTHER WORLD, A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT UNIVERSE... ONE WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN A COSMIC CATASTROPHE!



As BILL AND DOTTY LISTENED IN SHOCKED AMAZEMENT...

THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE CATASTROPHE DISPERSED TO SEEK PLACES IN THIS UNIVERSE WHERE LIFE MIGHT BE TOLERATED! IT WAS MY FATE TO FIND THIS PLANET, THE EARTH... AND THE STRANGE FORM OF LIFE CALLED HUMANITY! I QUICKLY OBSERVED THAT MEN WERE THE HIGHEST CREATURES, SO I DECIDED TO BECOME ONE!



BUT FIRST I HAD TO OBSERVE ONE, AND I PICKED YOU, BILL WOODS, AT RANDOM! AFTER I FELT I COULD PASS FOR A HUMAN, I ASSUMED YOUR FORM, SO I'D HAVE READY-MADE FRIENDS, A JOB, A BANK ACCOUNT, AND SO FORTH! IF I TRIED TO BE A COMPLETELY MADE-UP HUMAN, I'D HAVE BEEN LONELY, UNABLE TO PRODUCE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT COULD HOLD WATER! THERE'D HAVE BEEN SO MANY PROBLEMS!

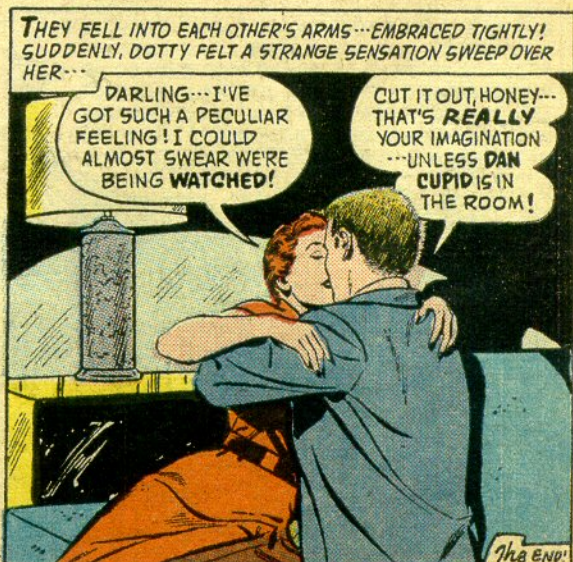
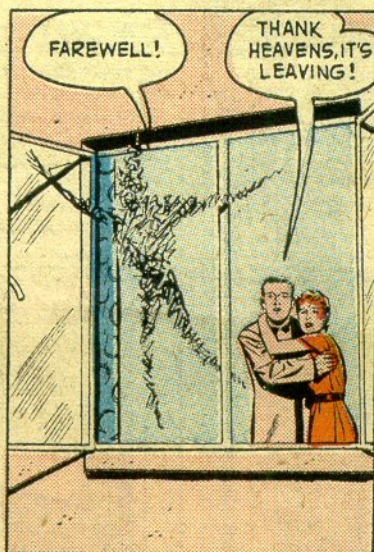
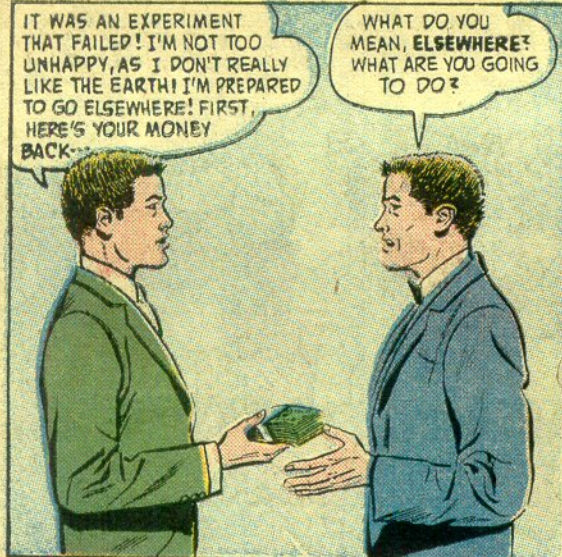


AND DID YOU THINK IT WOULD WORK... THAT YOU COULD FOOL ALL BILL'S FRIENDS, INCLUDING ME... INDEFINITELY?

I HOPED SO... BUT I WAS WRONG! I'M NOT A HUMAN, AS YOU DETECTED! IF YOU COULDN'T LOVE ME... NO GIRL COULD!











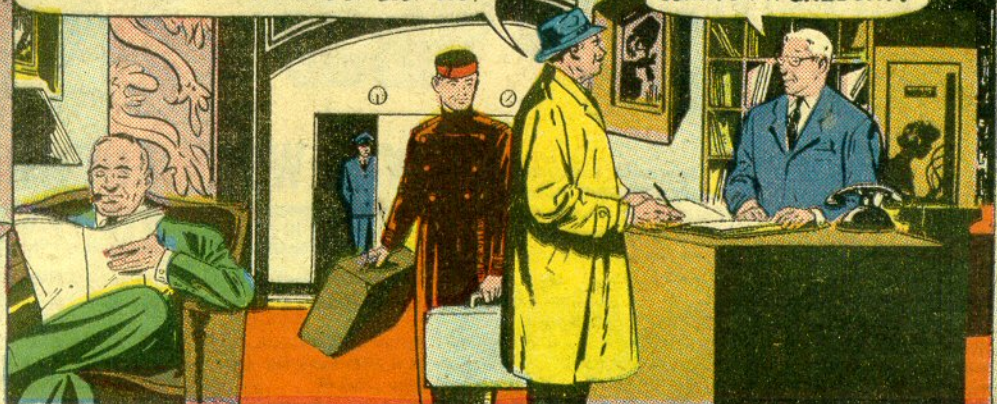


# The 13<sup>th</sup> FLOOR!

**GEORGE BLENHAM**, AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS MAN, WAS MAKING HIS FIRST TRIP TO NEW YORK AND THE UNITED STATES...

I EXPECT TO STAY ABOUT A WEEK! MAY I HAVE ROOM 1313. PLEASE? YOU SEE, 13 HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY LUCKY NUMBER AND I'M HERE ON BUSINESS!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR! THIS HOTEL HAS NO 13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR... MOST PEOPLE CONSIDER IT **UNLUCKY!**



THAT'S RIGHT, SIR... THE FLOORS GO 11, 12, ~~13~~, SKIPPING RIGHT OVER 13! IT'S TOO HARD TO RENT ROOMS ON A 13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR!

ODD... VERY ODD! THESE AMERICANS!



HERE'S YOUR ROOM, SIR... SUITE 1712!

HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU! MIND SENDING UP A **BICARB**?... I'M NOT FEELING TOO WELL!



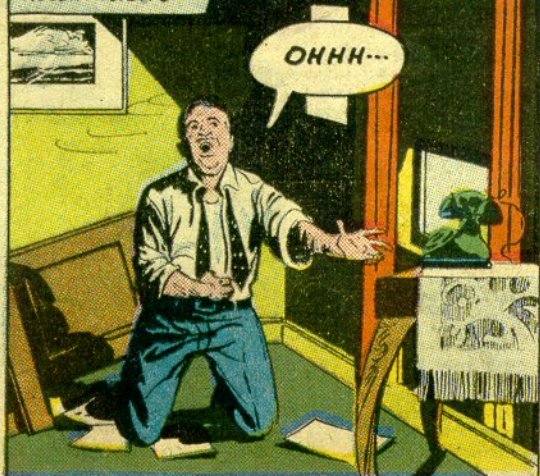
A HALF HOUR LATER, GEORGE BLENHAM FELT **VERY** ILL! HE COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON HIS WORK...

FEEL FEVERISH... WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH ME? MAYBE I'D BETTER CALL A DOCTOR...



BUT AS HE WENT TO THE PHONE HE DROPPED BEFORE A VIOLENT SEIZURE...

OH... OH...





EXERTING EVERY OUNCE OF EFFORT...



GOT TO GET  
TO THE PHONE...  
NO STRENGTH...

WITH A FINAL DESPERATE REACH...



YES?  
FRONT  
DESK!

O-DOCTOR...  
SEND DOCTOR  
...QUICK!

IT SEEMED TO GEORGE THAT HE BLACKED OUT ONLY FOR AN INSTANT, BUT WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED...



CAREFUL WITH HIM! WE'VE  
GOT TO RUSH HIM TO THE  
HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY!

THESE PEOPLE...  
MUST BE AMBULANCE  
MEN! BUT WHY ARE THEY  
DRESSED IN **BLACK**?  
...AMERICAN HABITS...  
VERY PECULIAR...

HE WAS  
WHEELED  
QUICKLY  
DOWN  
THE  
HOTEL  
CORRIDOR  
TOWARD  
THE  
WAITING  
ELEVATOR...

HE'S IN BAD SHAPE!  
TAKE US TO THE  
**13TH FLOOR**  
FAST!



THE...13TH FLOOR? I...I  
DIDN'T HEAR RIGHT...  
GREAT SCOTT, NOW THE  
ELEVATOR OPERATOR  
IS DRESSED IN  
**BLACK**!

HERE  
YOU ARE,  
**13TH  
FLOOR!**

**GOOD!**

PLEASE,  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON?  
WO'N'T  
SOMEBODY  
EXPLAIN...  
OHHH!



SUDDENLY, GEORGE WAS SURE THAT HIS  
CONFUSION WAS ENTIRELY THE RESULT  
OF HIS DISORDERED MIND! THE SWIFT  
MOVING EVENTS, THE PECULIAR COLORS  
...EVERYTHING WAS MERE DELIRIUM...

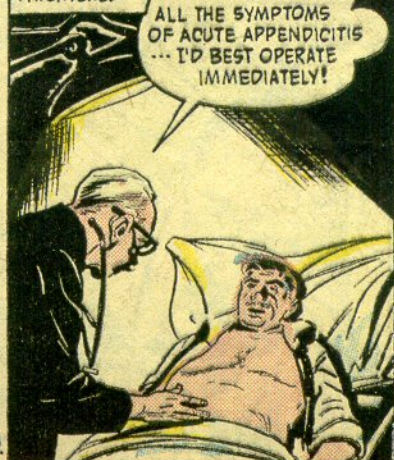
WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH  
HIM?

DON'T KNOW! WE'LL  
TAKE HIM TO DR. HOWARD  
...THE CHIEF DIAGNOSTICIAN!



SOMEHOW, THE 13TH FLOOR WAS A **HOSPITAL**,  
WHERE MEN IN WHITE BECAME **MEN IN  
BLACK**! GEORGE COULDN'T HELP BEING  
FRIGHTENED...

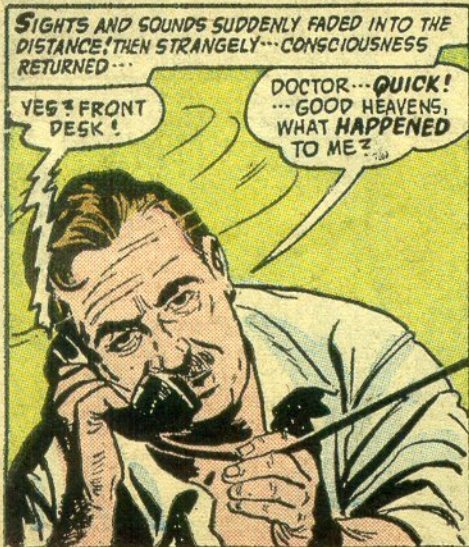
ALL THE SYMPTOMS  
OF ACUTE APPENDICITIS  
...I'D BEST OPERATE  
IMMEDIATELY!



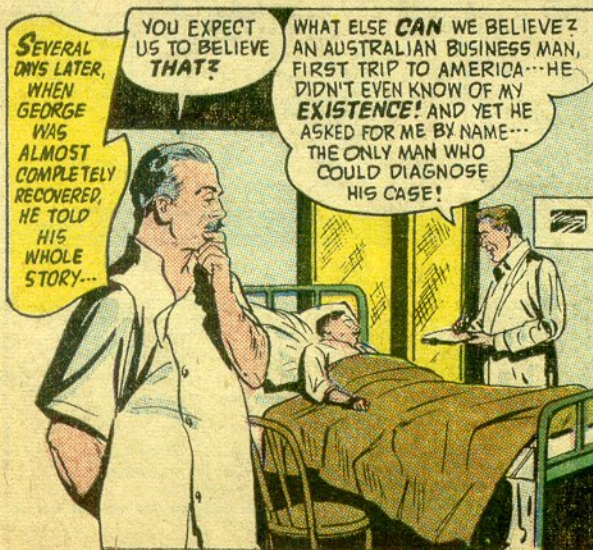




THOUGH GEORGE KNEW HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS, SOMEHOW HE COULD STILL HEAR EVERYTHING! TIME LOST ALL MEANING...







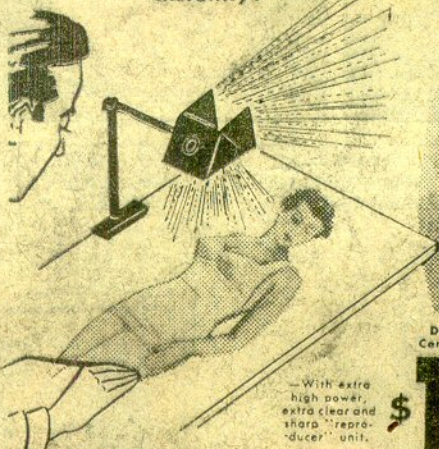


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